

REMARKS

Claims 29 through 37 are now pending in the application. Claims 9 through 28 have been canceled and Claims 29 through 37 are newly presented. Applicant submits that support for the new claims may be found throughout the application, claims and drawings as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant notes that Claim 29 includes an insert portion formed of a solid substantially void-free metal and a perform portion that is likewise formed of a solid substantially void-free metal. Applicant notes, too, that Claim 29 recites that the perform portion deform in at least one axial direction, a radially inward direction and a radially outward direction during the single stroke such that the preform portion is deformed about the opposite axial sides of the flange so as to be fixedly engaged to the insert portion.

Applicant next notes that U.S. Patent Nos. 2,331,909 to Hensel et al., 3,842,646 to Kuhn and 3,962,772 to Haller are each related to a method for forming a gear from a powdered metal material. Applicant submits that as the present invention is related to the press-forging of gears, rather than to the compaction of powdered metal material to remove interstitial voids between powder particles, there is no teaching or suggestion in the references themselves or in the art generally for their combination with a forging reference.

Applicant notes, too, that U.S. Patent No. 3,200,665 to Wells discloses a composite gear having a hub (10), an annulus (20) that is disposed about the hub (10) and a web (15) that interconnects the hub (10) and the annulus (20). Column 2, lines 63-65 of Wells clearly indicate that the web (15) is molded rather than press-forged. Accordingly, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in the references themselves or in the art generally for the combination of Wells with any forging reference.

Applicant notes that U.S. Patent Nos. 3,535,762 to Taylor and 6,315,841 to Fisher et al., and that documents JP 07-051789 and SU 918605 are forging references. Applicant submits, however, that each of these references fails to teach or suggest that that a preform portion deform in at least one axial direction, a radially inward direction and a radially outward direction during the single stroke such that the preform portion is deformed about the opposite axial sides of the flange so as to be fixedly engaged to the insert portion. No flange is employed by either Taylor or SU 918605. Fisher and JP 07-051789 do not disclose a gear having more than one component.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that the aforementioned art does not present a prima facie case of anticipation and cannot be combined to form a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and pass the present case to issue.

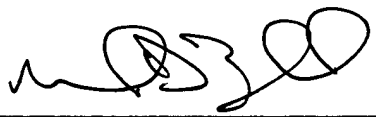
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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